

Remarks

Applicants thank the Examiner for the careful attention paid to the present matter.

The Examiner has indicated claims 6, 16, 20, 27, 37, and 41 are allowable if rewritten in independent form. To allow them to pass to issuance, they have been rewritten into independent form; no new matter has been introduced and the claimed subject matter remains exactly as originally filed. To accommodate rewriting into independent form, claims 1, 5, 12-14, 19, 22, 26, 33-35, and 40 have been cancelled, and claims 2-4, 6-11, 15-18, 20, 21, 23-25, 27-32, 36-39, 41-42 have been amended.

The merits of the rejections for claims 1-5, 7-15, 17-19, 21-26, 28-36, 38-40, and 42 have not been considered for this response, however they are nonetheless believed to be moot in light of the amendments since all dependent claims now depend either directly or indirectly from an allowable base claim.

Therefore, claims 2-4, 6-11, 15-18, 20, 21, 23-25, 27-32, 36-39, 41-42 are believed in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited. Please charge any shortages and credit any overcharges to our Deposit Account number 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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